



# GSU ALUMNI NEWS

WINTER ISSUE

DECEMBER 2008

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Alumni Hall of Fame Inductees
- Art Dedication Ceremony
- Alum Spotlight
- Alumni Survey — Feedback Session

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## 16 INDUCTED INTO GSU HALL OF FAME



Dr. Horace Judson, (Far Left), Dr. Gail Shorter-Judson, (Far Right), and Mr. Wilbert Ellis (Back Left) and the 2008 Hall of Fame inductees

Grambling State University inducted 16 alumni into the Alumni Hall of Fame in October. The black-tie ceremony featured a live jazz duo and a keynote speech from radio personality Tom Joyner.

The honorees became the third group of honorees to be inducted since President Horace A. Judson restored the ceremony in 2006 – part of his mission “Reclaiming Our Legacy, Claiming Our Place.” These inductees represent GSU’s academic colleges and the area of athletics.

Academic inductees were Bettye J. Davis, professional studies; Thomas Harvey, College of Education; Willie L. Hill Jr., College of Education; Fred Irby III, College of Education; Fred Marsh, College of Business; Ira Wayne McConnell, College of Business; Willie Spears, College of Business; Betty Jean S. White, College of Education; Neari F. Warner, College of Education; Allen Williams, College of Arts and Sciences; and Leon Whitaker, College of Education. Athletic inductees were Patricia Cage Bibbs, Lee Fobbs, Aaron James, Michael Lyons and Benjamin Williams.



*Happy Holidays*

## PRESIDENT JUDSON HOSTS ALUMNI MIXER

### UPCOMING EVENTS

—DEC. 5—  
PRESIDENT'S  
HOLIDAY  
RECEPTION  
GSU ASSEMBLY  
CENTER FOYER  
3:30 P.M.

—DEC. 13—  
SWAC  
CHAMPIONSHIP  
GAME  
BIRMINGHAM,  
ALABAMA  
LEGION FIELD  
GSU -VS-  
JACKSON STATE  
1:00 P.M.

—DEC. 19—  
FALL  
GRADUATION  
GSU ASSEMBLY  
CENTER  
10:00 A.M.

—MAY 2009—  
CLASS OF 1959  
50TH CLASS  
REUNION



President Judson shares a laugh with Alums during the mixer



Approximately 150 Alums attended the President's Alumni Mixer

The 2008 Homecoming Activities included the President's Alumni Mixer held in the Green Room of the GSU Assembly Center. President Judson discussed strengthening the relationships between GSU and all alumni chapters with the approximately 150 alums in attendance. Everyone enjoyed an evening of fellowship, photos, and food. Later, an Ole School Dance was held in the Foyer of the Assembly Center. The Ole School Dance ended at 2:00 a.m.

## ART DEDICATION CEREMONY HELD DURING HOMECOMING

Houston CPA and alumnus Ira W. McConnell and his wife, Judy, dedicated 15 pieces of African art worth more than \$300,000 from their personal collection during homecoming weekend at Grambling State University.

McConnell said he began collecting African Art in the summer of 1991 when an interior designer that was working with his accounting firm recommended the purchase of some tribal spears for display on the walls of the reception area in his office. When he was introduced to the owner of an art gallery in Houston, he became hooked on the art.

"I was immediately impressed by the quality of the workmanship on the wood and ivory carvings and bronze castings. I established a wonderful relationship with the owner of the gallery and began to learn more from him about the ritual and ceremonial use of the art," McConnell said.

The exhibit is composed of 10 pieces of wood sculpture or shrine figures, two ritual spoons, two masks, and one bronze container piece. Primarily from West Africa, the regions of origin range from the Congo, Ivory Coast, Gabon, Angola and Mali. Most of the African Sculpture was designed for ceremonial or ritualistic purposes.

The works can now be viewed in A.C. Lewis Memorial Library.



Mrs. Donna McGee (Head, GSU Art Department) and Wayne McConnell converse at the Dedication Ceremony



Photos of two of the art pieces donated by McConnell



## Alum Spotlight

*"I was impressed with all of the structural changes my GSU has made. The new apartment-style housing units are fabulous and provide such a comfortable and safe feeling to the environment. The new Assembly Center, cafeteria and Student Union facilities caused my heart to beam with so much pride!"*

—Dr. Camalyn Woodard Gaines

GSU Alumna Dr. Camalyn Woodard Gaines is not only a physician, she is a community servant who this year played an instrumental role in the election process of President-elect Barack Obama.

In her day job, Gaines, a native of Grambling, works to rehabilitate patients with neurologic and orthopedic injuries and disabilities. She said her chosen medical field -- *Physiatry* -- is rewarding because it allows her to help improve the quality of life of patients who often have catastrophic injuries.

Gaines believes in investing in her community through spiritual, political and social institutions and organizations. She is an active member of Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority. Gaines and her husband were elected as Obama delegates to represent the state of Louisiana. This allowed them to participate in the Democratic National Convention that was held in Denver this past summer.

Gaines has been employed by the Southeast Louisiana Veterans Health Care System in New Orleans for the past 14 years. She has served as Acting Chief of the Department of PM&R and presently is a Staff Physician for the Baton Rouge Out-Patient Clinic where she is the sole *Physiatrist* on the medical staff. Camalyn is Board-Certified in PM&R and in Spinal Cord Injury Medicine. She is also a member of the New Orleans Medical Society, Louisiana State Medical Society and River Parishes Medical Society.

Gaines graduated with honors from Grambling State University in 1983 with a B.S. in Chemistry. She attended LSU Medical School in New Orleans and received her Doctor of Medicine degree in 1989. She also completed a four-year residency in Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation (PM&R) at Charity Hospital in New Orleans.

Dr. Gaines believes a change in our Alumni leadership is necessary, first. Then she believes monthly emails from GSU would be great to keep alums abreast of pertinent issues. As far as the relationship of GSU with the Alumni, she believes the Alumni leadership is in turmoil and is destroying the loving spirit that should exist between various chapters and the GSU Administration. Dr. Gaines stated, "I can't imagine all of our chapters and national leadership not having the same agenda - supporting Dr. Judson and his administration, supporting our students with scholarships and a great learning institution, and continuing to improve the infrastructure of our school."

She lives in LaPlace with her husband, Attorney Randal Gaines, and their three children: Randal II, Ariel and Breon.



Camalyn Woodard Gaines, M.D., a native of Grambling, Louisiana, graduated with honors from Grambling State University in 1983 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry. Camalyn attended LSU Medical School in New Orleans and received her Doctor of Medicine degree in 1989. She also completed a four-year residency in Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation (PM&R) at Charity Hospital in New Orleans.



*Alumni Relations salutes Dr. Camalyn Woodard Gaines*

## ALUMNI SURVEY FEEDBACK SESSION HELD DURING HOMECOMING



Dr. Michael McKinley, Executive Assistant to President Horace Judson, and Alums met to discuss the Alumni Survey.

GSU alumni want to become more unified, build a stronger relationship with the university and take advantage of technology as a communications mechanism. Those answers are a sampling of the feedback received during an alumni feedback session held during homecoming weekend in the Black & Gold Room. Dr. Michael McKinley, executive assistant to President Horace Judson, led a one-hour discussion that delved into ways the university and alumni can enhance their relationship.

Representatives from alumni organizations from Birmingham, Alabama, to Washington, D.C. attended the event, which will lead to the development of better long-term communication between GSU and its alumni.

### BEYOND THE STEEPLE

Remembering  
fallen  
Gramblinites  
this  
academic year...



- CATHERINE WILLIAMS  
GRAMBLING, LA
- DR. SARA M. WILLIAMS  
GRAMBLING, LA
- MARY PANNELL  
SHREVEPORT, LA



## 2008 ALUMNI HALL OF FAME BREAKFAST



2008 Hall of Fame Inductee Willie Spears encourages alums to "give back."

Willie Spears, one of 16 Grambling State University Hall of Fame inductees for 2008, implored his fellow alumni to find ways to give back to GSU and make a difference during his presentation at the annual Homecoming Alumni Breakfast. "The improvements that you see on a university campus did not happen by waving a magic wand. It takes hard work, headaches and sometimes heartaches," Spears said.

He also cautioned his colleagues about taking progress for granted. "Too often, we don't call or write to say 'thank you,' nor do we write a check to say 'here are some things that can help you with your programs,'" Spears said. "But alumni can play major roles to help the university -- financial contributions, volunteering and things of that nature." Spears said there are more opportunities to praise the great work that's being done than there are reasons to criticize.

Spears, currently Senior Vice President and Community Relations Officer of Red River Bank in Alexandria, graduated from Grambling in 1968 with a degree in business administration. He is also a graduate of the LSU School of Banking and has been an instructor at the American Institute of Banking, teaching courses on banking operations and consumer lending.



[www.gram.edu/  
alumni/news.asp](http://www.gram.edu/alumni/news.asp)

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## Mission

THE ALUMNI RELATIONS OFFICE ASSISTS GRAMBLING STATE UNIVERSITY (GSU) IN PROMOTING GOOD RELATIONS WITH ALUMNI, STUDENTS, PARENTS, FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS OF GSU, WHILE STRENGTHENING THE TIES OF LOYALTY AND DEVOTION TO GSU IN FURTHERING THE INTEREST OF THE UNIVERSITY.

## Contact Us

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT RECENT AND UPCOMING EVENTS FOR ALUMNI, CONTACT MRS. GLENDA JONES, MRS. VALENCIA CLEMONS OR MR. RALPH WILSON IN THE OFFICE OF ALUMNI RELATIONS, GRAMBLING STATE UNIVERSITY.

*Reclaiming Our Legacy and Claiming Our Place*

## Congratulations GSU Tiger Football



State Farm Bayou Classic Champions  
SWAC Western Division Champions



SWAC Football Championship Game  
Birmingham, Alabama  
Legion Field  
1:00 p.m.

December 13, 2008

For More Info: <http://alumni.gram.edu/index>

## Season's Greetings



Dr. Horace A. Judson, President  
Dr. Gail Shorter-Judson,  
and the Grambling State University Family